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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone 002511-115 517 700 Cables: OAU, Addis Ababa
website : www.africa-union.org

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REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE 23RD AFRICA-FRANCE SUMMIT

(Item proposed by the Republic of Mali)

**REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE
23RD AFRICA-FRANCE SUMMIT (BAMAKO, 16 JANUARY 2007)
(Item proposed by the Republic of Mali)**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-third Conference of Heads of State and Government of Africa and France was held on 3 and 4 December 2005 in Bamako under the main theme: "The African youth: their vitality, creativity and aspirations".

Fifty one (51) African States participated with France in the Conference. Twenty five were represented by their Heads of State. Representatives of the UN, African Union, European Union and other regional and international organizations also took part in the conference.

The Conference was preceded by the preparatory ministerial meeting held in Bamako on 1 December 2005.

The "African Youth Forum" had also been held on 8 and 9 November 2005 in Bamako. Participants from 31 African countries prepared conclusions and recommendations as well as a summary "address by the African youth to the Summit of Heads of State and Government of Africa and France".

The theme of the youth was discussed by the Conference including aspects on training, employment and rehabilitation of the youth in society. In this respect, this theme was divided into five (5) sub-themes, namely:

- training and employment;
- socio-political and economic involvement in development process;
- vitality and creativity of the African youth: NICT and cultural diversity;
- migratory phenomena as integration factors and return of African experts to Africa;
- African youth and major health issues.

2. The Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (Khartoum, 16-12 January 2006) adopted Decision Ref: EX.CL/Dec. 273 (VIII) by which it particularly:

- took note of the concerns and expectations of the African youth expressed in their address to the Heads of State and Government of Africa and France by participants at the Forum of African youth, organized in Bamako on 8 and 9 November 2005;

- underscored the urgent need to rekindle hope and confidence in the African youth and define prospects that would enable them to fully play an increased role in Africa's development;
- lent its firm support to the initiative of the President of the Republic of France, Mr. Jacques Chirac, on a solidarity levy on air tickets, designed to help combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related diseases;
- urged the African Union Commission to give an in-depth consideration to the proposal to establish "a Euro-African investment Fund" within the framework of the Africa-Europe Dialogue;
- include the immigration issue in the agenda of the Africa-Europe Dialogue, particularly the Troïka and the oncoming Africa-Europe Summit;
- sensitize partners on the need for greater mobilization of financial resources to beef up national and regional efforts in combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related diseases.

II. MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP MEETING (BAMAKO, 16 JANUARY 2007)

The Ministerial Follow-up Meeting of the 23rd Conference of Heads of State and Government of Africa and France will be a propitious occasion to exchange fruitful views on the progress made in the implementation of the guidelines retained by the Heads of State and Government at the Bamako Summit.

In this respect, the Foreign Ministers will decide on the following sub themes:

- Sub-theme 1:** Socio-political and economic involvement of the youth in Africa's development process.
- Sub-theme 2:** Return of African experts to Africa.
- Sub-theme 3:** African youth confronted with the major health issues.
- Sub-theme 4:** Training and employment
- Sub-theme 5:** The phenomenon of migration as an integration factor
- Sub-theme 6:** Vitality and creativity of African Youth
- Sub-theme 7:** The role of the African Youth in promoting Africa's image, cultural diversity, art and culture.

The Fourth working session of the Ministerial Follow-up Meeting will therefore revolve mainly around:

- Presentation of the Twenty Fourth Conference of Heads of State and Government of Africa and France (February 2007);

- Handing over of the office of the Chairpersonship.

In this respect, the African Union Commission should be able to report on the implementation of Decision Ref: EX.CL/Dec.273 (VIII) adopted by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (Khartoum, 16 – 21 January 2006).

III. PROSPECTS

The Twenty-fourth Conference of Heads of State and Government of Africa and France will take place in February 2007 in France. Discussions and guidelines of the oncoming Summit will relate to Africa's role in the world at the political, economic and cultural levels with a view to preserving the major balances that ensure the security of peoples, economic and social progress and protection of the planet.

2007

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